I. In the Specification

Please amend the specification to delete the Abstract found on page 22 thereof, and replace the same with the Abstract as set forth below:

~~The specification describes a~~ A hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, ~~the device~~ comprising ~~at least a first pair of jaws movable relative to each other between at least an unclamped and at least a first clamped position thereof; a handle spaced apart from the at least first pair of jaws by a central portion, the handle including a moveable trigger connected to the at least first pair of jaws, whereby movement of the trigger is operative to selectively position the at least first pair of jaws between the unclamped position and a fully closed position thereof, and a locking mechanism operative to selectively lock the at least first pair of jaws in the at least first clamped position thereof. The locking mechanism comprises: (a) a lock lever including a cam surface, the lock lever selectively moveable between a first position, wherein the lock lever is engaged with the trigger to limit movement thereof, and a second position, wherein the lock lever is disengaged from the trigger to permit unlimited movement thereof, and wherein further the lock lever is biased to the first position thereof; and (b) a manually operable switch having a cam following portion which, by selective movement of the switch, is positionable along the cam surface of the lock lever to effect movement of the lock lever between the first and second positions thereof~~ a pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position; a handle spaced apart from the jaws by a central portion, the handle including a trigger connected to the jaws by a pull member, whereby actuation of the trigger is operative to move the jaws between the unclamped and fully clamped positions thereof, and a locking

mechanism selectively operable to lock the jaws in at least one intermediate position defined between the unclamped and fully clamped positions; and wherein the pull member is sufficiently resilient so as to permit the jaws to be temporarily urged away from each other towards the unclamped position when the pair of jaws are locked in the at least one intermediate position.

Please amend the specification at page 9 by deleting both the first and second full paragraphs thereof and replacing the same with the following paragraphs:

Portions of jaws **64** and **66** also extend inwardly into housing **42**. These interior portions of jaws **64** and **66** are each reduced more than halfway in thickness and interleaved to achieve an overlapping configuration inside of housing **42**. These interior portions are further provided with slots **62**. Slots **62** of the interleaved jaws **64** and **66** cooperate to define an opening [**60**] therebetween. A carriage assembly [**50**] is disposed within this opening [**60**].

As can be seen in reference to **FIGURES 3*b*** and **3*c***, the carriage assembly [**50**] consists of pull rod end-boss **52**, rack **54**, and lug **56**. End-boss **52** is secured to rod **20** by a recessed set screw or other conventional device known in the art. Rack **54** contains a central recessed portion to accommodate the rod **20** and lug **56**. A rectangular aperture is provided through the center of this recessed portion to accommodate end-boss **52**. Lug **56** may be constructed in one or two pieces. If constructed of one piece, it is disposed entirely through the central portion of rack **54**. If the lug **56** is composed of two pieces, these may be affixed to rack **54** with solder, epoxy, or the like. Lug **56** is also provided with a substantially rectangular aperture to accommodate end boss **52**. The apertures in

rack **54** and lug **56**, as well as the recessed portion in rack **54** to accommodate rod **20** should be sized to allow the free rotation of end boss **52** and rod **20** when fully assembled. Lug **56** cooperates with the slots **62** defining the opening [**60**] to complete the mechanical connection between jaws **64** and **66** and rod **20**.